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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(June 22 - July 21, 1984)

August 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(22 January - 21 February 1984)

Africa General

Trade Treaty

(Text) The treaty on a preferential trade zone for eastern and southern Africa has come into force. It was signed by 14 states of the region at the summit held in the capital of Zimbabwe. The treaty stipulates that the countries belonging to the zone will reduce customs duties on a whole series of commodities. The list of these commodities is to be constantly expanded in the future. Agreement has also been reached on free freight transit shipments. With a view to facilitating reciprocal payments, a standardized accounting unit will be introduced for the preferential trade zone. It has been decided to inaugurate a joint trade and development bank. The new organization, its members intend, should eventually become an economic community. Of course, implementing this conception will not be easy. The states belonging to the preferential zone differ markedly in terms of the size of their territory and population, their natural resources, and economic potential. They also adhere to different sociopolitical orientations.

At the same time, the very fact that the preferential trade zone has been formed attests to the African peoples' clear desire to use the advantages provided by cooperation. Indeed, it can help to resolve more easily the problems of national development. But special importance is attached to the expansion of regional trade. After all, together with their economic backwardness, the African states have also inherited from colonial times their attachment to the world capitalist economy. However, exchange with the former metropolitan countries is of an obviously inequitable nature. The consolidation of regional trade ties helps the continent's states to weaken their dependence on capitalist markets. In particular, they acquire the opportunity to pursue a unified prices policy and to collectively rebuff the diktat of the multinational corporations. It is no accident that the development of inter-African cooperation is put forward as one of the most important tasks in the OAU's Lagos plan of action adopted at the conference in the Nigerian capital. The principle of self-reliance and the mobilization of internal reserves were put forward in this plan as the main means of achieving economic independence. The creation of a preferential zone for eastern and southern Africa is a step in this direction. (8 Jul 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #136, 13 Jul 84, p. J1)

US Blamed for Instability

(Summary) In this commentary, it is stated that southern Africa has been one of the "hot spots" on our planet for many years. In this region is located South Africa, the dangerous hotbed of colonialism and racism. The pernicious influence on this hotbed of tension comes from outside of the region, influenced by international relations which have been complicated by the aggressive policies of the imperialist United States. The commentary continues on to criticize American and South African ties. (13 Jul 84, p. 4)

Agricultural Measures

(Excerpt) Measures are being taken by West African countries for the restoration of cocoa and coffee plantations which, in the past year, suffered as the result of huge fires. In Ghana, a special program was launched in this area. (26 Jun 84, p. 5)

Angola

Soviet Art Exhibition

(Excerpt) There was a time, in the distant past, when the art of Africa interested only specialists. Now exhibitions of the work of African artists in the Soviet Union, and of Soviet artists in Africa, have become common place. At the opening in Luanda of an exhibition of Soviet paintings of drawings, this was mentioned by the Secretary of the Union of Angolan Artists. (24 Jun 84, p. 1)

Anxiety Expressed

(Excerpt) The Central Committee of the MPLA-PT is expressing its great anxiety in connection with the tension in international relations. (25 Jun 84, p. 4)

Government Advances

(Text) More than 50 UNITA guerrillas were killed by the Angolan defense forces. (8 Jul 84, p. 5)

Bulgarian Visit

(Excerpt) Angola condemns decisively the stimulation by imperialism of the arms race. Angola supports all constructive initiatives by its Socialist allies aimed at preventing war and strengthening peace, said MPLA-Workers' Party Politburo member and Minister of State Security Juliao Mateus Paulo during a meeting in Luanda with Bulgarian Politburo member Georgi Filipov. (3 Jul 84, p. 5)

Soviet Students Meet with Angolan Students

(Excerpt) Not for the first time on this quiet street next to the square honoring Agostino Neto, graduates of the Patrice Lumumba University, together with students of middle and high schools of other Soviet institutions, are gathered. More than two years ago, enthusiasts from the Center of Russian language in Luanda repaired with their own hands a deserted building, converting it into a comfortable lecture hall, and from that time the new meeting place quickly gained popularity. (9 Jul 84, p. 5)

Government Advances

(Text) More than 100 guerrillas were killed and a large collection of weapons and ammunition seized as the result of military operations launched by Angolan military forces against UNITA during June. (10 Jul 84, p. 5)

Exchange of Experience

(Text) In accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola Workers' Party (MPLA-PT), an MPLA-PT delegation headed by J. Carlos Gomes, chief of the Central Committee Department for Assisting Mass Public Organizations, was in the Soviet Union 2 through 13 July. Meetings and conversations with the delegation were held at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work and International Departments, the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee, the AUCCTU, the Committee of Soviet Women, the V.I. Lenin Young Pioneer Organization Central Committee, and the USSR Writers Union. The delegation made a trip to Odessa, where it was received at the Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom and visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises. The MPLA-PT delegation rated the CPSU's work experience highly in strengthening party ties with the masses and enhancing the role of mass public organizations. It stressed the great significance of the assistance that the Soviet Union is giving to help Angola build a new life. (14 Jul 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #138, 17 Jul 84, p. J1)

Ponomarev Meets with Angolan Delegation

(Text) A meeting has been held 19 July at the CPSU Central Committee between Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and a delegation of the People's Republic of Angola led by Kundi Paiama, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Workers' Party Central Committee. Kundi Paiama spoke about the struggle of the Angolan people for strengthening the revolutionary gains notwithstanding the incessant hostile actions against the People's Republic of Angola by the Republic of South Africa and the imperialist forces backing it. He spoke highly of the peaceloving Leninist policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, expressed gratitude for the USSR's support for the People's Republic of Angola. The delegation was briefed on the successful implementation of the decisions of the 26th party congress, the subsequent plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee, the achievements of the Soviet people in building communism, the struggle of the USSR against the arms race and the military danger stemming from the aggressive circles of the USA and NATO. Solidarity was expressed with the struggle of the Angolan people who courageously uphold under the leadership of the MPLA-Workers' Party the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of the homeland, the right to advance on the path it embarked on.

The participants in the meeting pointed out that behind the ostentatious peaceableness of the actions of the USA and the Republic of South Africa in southern Africa is their intention to preserve the apartheid regime and destabilize the position of the progressive states in that area, to resolve the problem of Namibia on a neocolonialist basis. Invariable solidarity was expressed of the CPSU and the MPLA-Workers' Party with the just liberation struggle of the ANC and SWAPO. Mutual striving was reaffirmed for a further strengthening and developing friendly cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola, the CPSU and the MPLA-Workers' Party. Participating in the talks, which were held in a warm, comradely atmosphere, were Z.M. Kruglova, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Ties

With Foreign Countries, and R.A. Wyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department. (20 Jul 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Dialy Report, #141, 20 Jul 84, p. J1)

Angola/African National Congress

ANC Member Killed

(Excerpt) The Pretoria regime committed yet one more crime. Its victims were ANC member Janet Scoon and her six-year old daughter Katrine. They died in the city of Lubango where Janet worked as a teacher in the pedagogical institute, victims of a bomb planted by South African agents. (5 Jul 84, p. 5)

Congo

Delegation in the Soviet Union

(Excerpt) In connection with party ties between the CPSU and the Congolese Workers' Party (PCT), a delegation of the leaders of the PCT central organ, the newspaper Etumba, arrived in the Soviet Union. (5 Jul 84, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Russian Language Graduates

(Excerpt) One hundred two residents of the Ethiopian capital received diplomas upon the completion of a Russian language course. Nine of the best graduates were honored with gifts. (3 Jul 84, p. 5)

New Step Toward Party

(Excerpt) Today, regional constituent party conferences began in Ethiopia, a new step toward the creation of the structure of the future vanguard party. The successful course toward forming the party structure depends on the support of the Ethiopian workers. (4 Jul 84, p. 1)

Bulgarian Visit

(Text) The preservation of peace on earth--that is the key question of modern times, said PMAC representative and COPWE member F. Desta. He was attending a reception in honor of the arrival in Ethiopia of Bulgarian Politburo member Grishi Philipov for an official friendly visit. (16 Jul 84, p. 5)

High Evaluation

(Text) The Soviet Union's active assistance to and moral support for Ethiopia in defending its revolutionary gains, freedom, and territorial integrity are of historic significance and are greatly appreciated by the people of our country, Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, member of the Standing Committee of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, member of the Executive Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of

Ethiopia, and Ethiopian National Defense Minister, stated in Addis Ababa. The Soviet Union, he noted, gave us a helping hand when the revolution in Ethiopia was under grave threat from internal and external enemies whose actions were being directed by world reaction. The CPSU and the Soviet state are in the vanguard of the forces of progress and peace in the world. Thanks to the USSR's consistent political course aimed at ensuring peace and preventing nuclear catastrophe, and thanks to the Soviet people's struggle against the forces of imperialism, many African countries have gained independence and have chosen the path of revolutionary transformations, Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan pointed out. (20 Jul 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #142, 23 Jul 84, pp. J1-2)

Guinea

Competition Held

(Excerpt) More than 100 Guineans, taking a Russian language course in Conakry, participated in a competition called "Do You Know the Soviet Union?" Its winners, S. Diallo, engineer T. Barre, and worker K. Kamara were university students. Seven other participants were awarded prizes. (30 Jun 84, p. 5)

Madagascar

Madagascar Party Delegation Concludes Visit

(Text) The delegation of the Congress Party for the Independence of Madagascar (AKFM) headed by A. Rakutuvau Ravelu, candidate member of the AKFM Politburo, which visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, has left Moscow for Antananarivo. The delegation visited the Modalvian SSR as well as Moscow. The Malagasy guests had talks at the CPSU Central Committee Economic and International Departments, the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, the USSR Gosplan, Moscow Gorispolkom, and the CPSU Central Committee Social Sciences Institute, and visited industrial and agricultural enterprises. The delegation members expressed satisfaction with the results of their stay in the USSR. (20 Jul 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #145, 26 Jul 84, p. J1)

Mozambique

Party, Government Cable Mozambique President

(Excerpt) We send you, Comrade President, the FRELIMO Party, the People's Assembly, the government of the country, and the friendly Mozambican people our cordial congratulations on the ninth anniversary of the proclamation of Mozambique's independence. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers. (25 Jun 84, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #124, 26 Jun 84, p. J1)

Namibia

SWAPO Communique

(Excerpt) A communique from SWAPO stated that in spite of ominous maneuvers by South Africa with the goal of neutralizing Namibia's struggle for freedom, SWAPO's military wing, PLAN, is activating military activities. (26 Jun 84, p. 5)

SWAPO Delegation Visits Moscow

(Text) A delegation of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), headed by L. Pokhamba, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SWAPO Central Committee, visited Moscow 26 June through 1 July. The delegation was received at the CPSU Central Committee International Department, the USSR Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African countries. It reported on the selfless struggle of the Namibian people under SWAPO's leadership against the illegal South African occupation and for a free, united, and democratic Namibia. The SWAPO representatives condemned the attempts by the racist Republic of South Africa and the United States to block a just settlement of the Namibian problem, to act in circumvention of Security Council Resolution 435 and other UN decisions on Namibia, and to create a neocolonialist puppet regime in that country. The Namibian guests expressed profound gratitude to the CPSU and the Soviet people for their multifaceted aid and support to the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence.

The Soviet side reaffirmed its immutable solidarity with SWAPO, which has received deserved recognition as the Namibian people's sole legitimate representative. The Soviet and Namibian representatives voiced concern at the dangerous exacerbation of international tension brought by imperialism's hegemonist, aggressive policy. They noted the importance of rallying the progressive democratic forces of Africa and the whole world to prevent a nuclear catastrophe and wreck the intrigues of racists and imperialists in southern Africa. (3 Jul 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #132, 9 Jul 84, p. J1)

Nigeria

Measures Against Oil Smugglers

(Text) Just last year in April Nigeria received \$19 million in revenue as the result of measures taken by the military government in the struggle against with oil smugglers. Thousands of tons of Nigerian "black gold" was illegally loaded into foreign tankers straight from the oil wells in the sea. The measures against smugglers were significantly improved with supplies by Nigeria's own oil producers, reported Nigerian Petroleum and Energy Minister T. David-West. (22 Jun 84, p. 5)

Nigeria Demands Extradition

(Excerpt) The Nigerian Government demanded from British authorities the extradition of U. Dikko, the leader of the reactionary Nigerian exile group

in London. In a note to the British Government delivered to the British embassy in Lagos, it is stated that the former Transportation Minister, protected by the British Government, should answer for himself in a tribunal. He is accused of having taken \$1.3 billion from state coffers. (12 Jul 84, p. 5)

Strained Relations

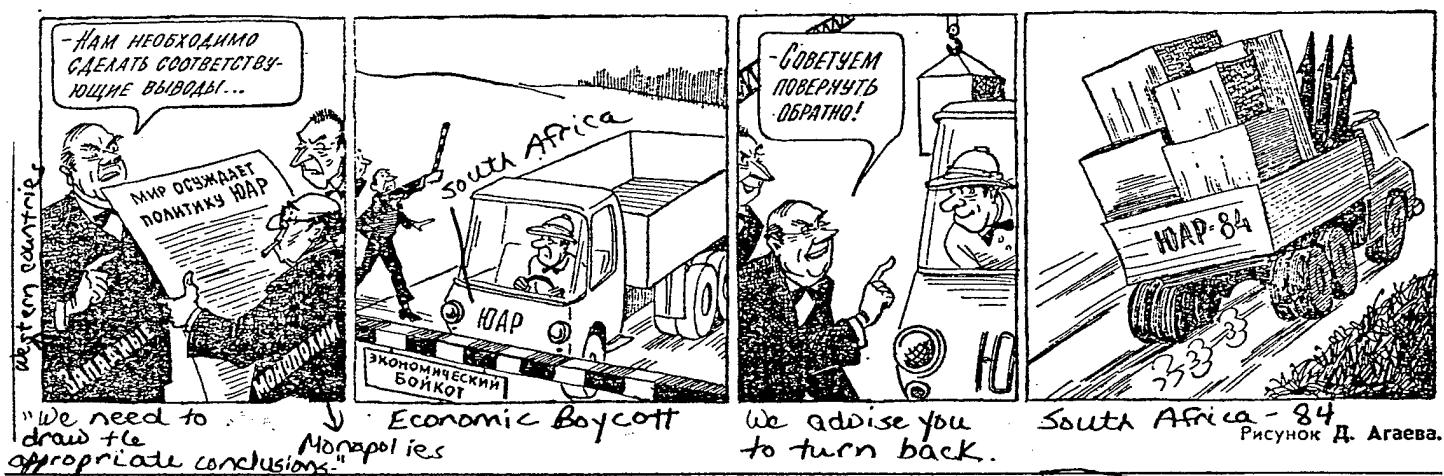
(Excerpt) The Nigerian Government presented the British Government with a demand to remove its ambassador from Nigeria. Speaking about this on national television, Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister I. Gambari noted that the position of Britain, in particular the statement of Foreign Affairs Minister J. Hay on the "undesirable" return of the Nigerian ambassador to London, calls for the greatest concern. Strained relations between Nigeria and Britain are the result of the "Dikko Affair." (15 Jul 84, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa

Strikers Demand Wage Hikes

(Text) More than 3,000 mine workers are on strike in South Africa. The workers are demanding a pay raise. (7 Jul 84, p. 5)

Western Response



(9 Jul 84, p. 5)

Trade Union Growth

(Text) The number of trade unions, representing the interests of 23 million South African blacks, has more than doubled over 3 years. In 1983, 670,000 people belonged to unions. (18 Jul 84, p. 4)

Demonstrations Erupt

(Excerpt) In an African suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa's industrial center, bitter clashes broke out between special units "for the struggle with disorder" and dark-skinned demonstrators protesting against announced increases in prices, rents, and taxes. (18 Jul 84, p. 5)

Seychelles

Elections Held

(Text) The fifth congress of the ruling party of the Seychelles met in the capital. General Secretary Albert Rene was unanimously reelected. The delegates elected also a new staff of the party's Central Committee and declared their full support for President Rene who, several days ago, was reelected to the post of head of state. (25 Jun 84, p. 5)

Gift Given

(Text) A gift of road-building equipment was given to the Seychelles by the Soviet Union in Victoria, the capital of the islands. (27 Jun 84, p. 5)

Ocean Yields Resources

(Text) The ocean surrounding the Seychelles Islands is far from being completely explored. It is well known that these waters are rich in marine life, but under the surface of the ocean floor, other riches are hidden. The Seychellois press agency reported that a few days ago, at a relatively shallow depth, lime was discovered which is needed for the production of cement which the republic has been forced to import for a long time. Since 1980, oil has been extracted from a shelf off the Faeroes Islands. Studies of ocean seaweed, which abounds in the waters off the Seychelles, have shown that it can be used for the production of food products, fertilizer, and medicines. Recently it was ascertained that the ocean contains deposits of metals which could become the basis of a metal industry. (10 Jul 84, p. 5)

Tanzania

Bulgarian Visit

(Text) In cooperation with other peaceloving nations, Tanzania is using all its strength in the name of checking the arms race first and foremost in nuclear areas, said Tanzanian Prime Minister Salim A. Salim during a meeting held in Dar-es-Salaam during an official visit by Bulgarian Politburo member Georgi Filipov. The Prime Minister noted the importance of the development of cooperation between nations as a guarantee of peace and stability on the planet. (14 Jul 84, p. 5)